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INFORMATION FROM FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

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COUNTRY

Foreign Countries

DATE OF

SUBJECT

FOREIGN RADIO REACTIONS TO THE PRESIDENT'S

STATEMENT ON FORMOSA AND BRITISH RECOGNITION

INFORMATION 6-9 Jan 1950

OF COMMUNIST CHINA

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE FBID (This strictly factual report is based solely on monitored foreign radio broadcasts received in Washington up to 8 a.m., 9 January 1950. It reproduces a report prepared in response to a special request.

INTRODUCTION: Foreign radios pay comparatively little attention to the President's announcement on Formosa; comment from London, Paris, and Manila, however, is favorable. In the non-Soviet world, only Nationalist Chinese and Korean comment is disapproving. British recognition of Communist Chins is given much more attention. On the whole the step is not condemned; there is general agreement that it does not imply approval of Communism. Soviet and Satellite radios play up the theme of "imperialist contradictions" between Britain and the U.S. and cite British recognition as an outstanding defeat for Western imperialists.

THE FORMOSA ANNOUNCEMENT: Radio reactions from the non-Soviet world are, on the whole, favorable. Not much attention is given to the announcement -- much less than to British recognition of Communist Chins. London, however, approves; Manila believes the Philippines: international position is made more secure by the decision, and Genevieve Tabouis is quoted by Paris as seeing hope for the Viet Nam situation in this "levelheaded" decision. In monitored broadcasts, only Chinese Nationalist Radio Taipsh expresses "regret" and "bewilderment" over the announcement (though it takes cheer from the fact that economic aid is not ruled out), and Syngman Rhee is said to "deno moe" the decision.

The Soviet and Satellite radios are confronted with the difficulty of reconciling the announcement with their previous insistence that American policy was one of support for China's "reactionaries." They handle this difficulty by virtually ignoring the announcement and by referring, instead, to sileged "secret agreements" between Chieng and the White House which provide for the defense of the island. It is also claimed that the Formosa decision is a sign of America's effort to adjust its Far Eastern policies to Britain's stand on Chine.

BRITISH RECOGNITION: Non-Soviet reactions to British recognition of Communist (hins do not show clear evidence of either condemnation or approval. There is general streement

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that the step does not imply approval of Communism, and several radios reiters: that Anglo-American relations are cordial. There is also general agreement that the chief reason for the step was Britain's desire for foreign trade.

Soviet and Satellite commant follow expected lines. They emphasize that Brit:in was "compelled" to "humble" herself and agree that the motive was desire for trade; but they use this to support their standard theme of "imperialist contradictions," claiming that "practical" British merchants are trying to "get sheed of their main competitor—the United States." They assert that the Labor Party weeks to bolster its chances in the pending general elections by demonstrating its independence of Washington. The action is also treated as a victory for world Communism. Both Budapest and Warsaw claim that "the time is not far off" when similar recognition pronouncements will be directed to "people's governments in Burma, Siam, Malaya, or Viet Nam." (It may be noted that neither India nor Indonesia is mentioned here.)

The Chinese Communist radios have not yet touched upon either the Formosa decision or British recognition, but Paris quotes the Shanghai TA KUNG PAO as warning that "true friendship must be expected only from the anti-imperialist" -- i.e., the Soviet -- camp.

CHINA IN THE U.N.: The question of China's representation in the United Nations is raised speculatively by the Western radios, while Budapest and the Paris HUMAN TE and Frankfurt SOZIALISTISCHER INFORMATIONSDIENST (both Communist) predict that the recognition means that "the Chinese People's Republic will greatly strengthen the peace camp in the Security Council."

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